
COMMENTS ON RECREATION DEPARTMENT SERVICES

- Three times since 1999, we requested to have the tree trimmed on our property but to no avail. We were told by a Recreation Department employee that no trucks were available and he did not know when the tree would be trimmed.
- My biggest complaint is the lack of police enforcement of reckless and speeding drivers around the Rouge Park area. Every night there are screaming motorcycles that must be going at a speed of 70 miles per hour. Another complaint is the prominence of homosexual activity in Rouge Park, which should be for walking and picnics, not X-rated scenes. Garbage and trash pickup and grass cutting in the Park have been very good this year.
- Although Rouge Park is trashed each weekend, by 10 a.m. Monday morning, the Park has been cleaned and looks great. That cleanup group does a great job.
- I have been calling the City's Forestry Division of the Recreation Department for five years trying to get a tree trimmed or cut down. They keep promising to cut it down, but so far no results. I would like some cooperation from the Forestry Division. Thank you.
- Some City problems include buildings that are falling down, poor bus service (you can't depend on the printed schedules), and trees that need to be cut down.
- The City needs better supervision and money management in the Public Lighting Department and better police patrol of the local neighborhoods. There is a block of dope dealers three blocks from my house. The City park at Coyle and Puritan needs more attention. The City needs to remove and replace dead trees in neighborhoods. It also needs to maintain better drug reporting methods for citizens and protection for those who report drug activity.
- As a new resident and a City employee, I am disgusted. Taxes are ill-spent and the bureaucracy makes it impossible for City departments to get even the most basic tools. The parks and streets are in total disrepair, and if it weren't for dedicated crews like mine, the City would have even more lawsuits on its hands. I will be leaving Detroit as soon as I can find a new job.
- Car theft is a very big problem in our neighborhood. Within a six-month period my vehicle was stolen twice from our driveway. It was not recovered the second time. Also, the restrooms on Belle Isle are not fit to be used by humans. In addition, I would like to have more police presence in our neighborhood night and day.
- Police and Fire employees are not volunteers. You do not pay them enough. Stop wasting money downtown. Help the community by cutting trees and lighting streets. It would help to see what I was driving on. Why don't police officers follow tow trucks hauling junk cars between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. to catch them dumping junk cars onto our streets?
- As an adult, I have never used several City services that as a child I used regularly. The City parks, including Belle Isle, are needed to provide neighborhood play areas, relaxation, and community gathering places. The cleanliness and upkeep of these areas is desperately needed, so that families can feel comfortable using them. I have heard about programs at the City recreation centers but I am not familiar with them firsthand. I will be inquiring at my local recreation center about programs for me and my family.

- Detroit would be a wonderful place to live, if buses came on time and the parks were clean and we had some streetlights.
- Please, someone read this. I love this City! I have traveled extensively (worldwide), and here are several things I think would help. 1. The racial make-up of police should reflect the make-up of the City – there are too many “cowboys” on the force. 2. All officers should be Detroit residents and graduates of Detroit high schools. 3. All officers should have mandatory and ongoing police athletic league participation, and not just once or twice during their careers. 4. City Council should adopt laws that make it impossible to own abandoned buildings. Use it or lose it – check Berlin, Germany for reference. 5. The City should donate more monies to culture – look at what “Detroit Techno” and the D.E.M.F did for the City. The Heidelberg Project and that sorry Motown Museum need help. Be open to these people and their ideas. 6. The City must develop mass transportation such as subways, monorails, train, etc. How can this be a world-class city without a developed downtown and when a suburbanite from Novi can get downtown to a Tiger game faster than a citizen from Seven Mile and Livernois? Be for real! 7. What is going on with City athletic programs? Northwestern baseball field has some of the best players in the State, but the kids can't find the ball in the outfield because the grass is too high, or field a ground ball properly because the infield is as hard as concrete. Consequently, the pro scouts haven't gone down there since the white flight. Our kids lose again. When are we gonna get it together?
- I believe more jobs should be created for the maintenance of the City's parks and recreation centers. The future of Detroit is it's youth. We need to invest heavily in our youth to direct their paths and direct them in the right way. We need to make them feel valued and important, so they can be the best that they can be. Detroit's future is dependent on its youth.
- I think there is high auto theft due to poor street lighting, which is due in part to the lack of trimming of trees that reduces the effectiveness of some streetlights. Also, there are too many house break-ins and side-streets are never cleaned in the winter.
- I never see a police car on my street. People put their trash out during the first week of the month, and it doesn't get picked up until the third week of the month. The restrooms in Rouge Park are vandalized without repair for years. Other problems include a destroyed ice skating rink, pot holes in the streets, cars on Pierson Street use it as a race track, and drivers ignoring stop signs. If had more space, I would continue.
- When I moved into this neighborhood in 1967, the park near my home was cut every two weeks, and now it is cut only once every two months. The park also had a swing, slide board, and sand box for the children to use, but the City removed all of them. Yet, my taxes are going up each year.
- Trees have not been trimmed for at least 25 years and many are diseased. The streets are never cleaned when needed most, at leaf-falling time.

- In the 1970's, the sanitation workers would pickup garbage by hand. They would sweep where it was needed. Today, the sanitation workers will make a mess and leave it for the homeowner to clean up. Parks need to be just like those in Southfield. We need workers that take pride in making Detroit better. We need to look at the big picture, when it comes to the City of Detroit. Give more fines to store owners who don't clean around their store or place of business and fines for lack of snow removal on sidewalks. The Recreation Department needs more funds to cut trees and remove diseased trees. Workers at neighborhood parks need to take more pride in the services they provide. It's how you perform and not just doing any old thing to say the job is done.
- We don't have a park or a recreation center. Sometimes the boom boxes in cars and homes are so loud we can't fall asleep until 2 to 4:30 a.m. Also, there are cars racing up and down streets. It's terrible!
- Police protection is only good for the black people, if you are white there is no justice. That's why I'm leaving the City. My children received nothing from public schools, no recreation, and no nice parks. Last year, I filed a report for getting beat up by four black people. The Detroit investigator did nothing for me. Also, my son tried to become a police officer, but was turned down. What did this City do for my family – nothing, except call me for jury duty.
- The only way I would volunteer for the City is to see improvements in the City's parks, recreation centers, and neighborhood policing with an active policeman involved in my neighborhood. People should be ticketed for littering, playing loud music, and curfew violations. Improvements are needed in recreation centers, especially at the Coleman Young Center swimming pool, whose new shower and pool edges are dirty. I have not swam there in five years. If these things are done, then I will volunteer.
- My back alley trees were cut and the alley was cleaned. I was very happy to see that someone cared.
- 1. Garbage collectors leave a lot of debris behind and tear-up the lawns removing garbage. 2. Lights are only on some of the time. Streets should always be lit. 3. Recreation activities are not communicated well. Disrepair of facilities is a strong reason for not going to the facilities. Rough children at the facilities are also a deterrent. 4. The City needs to provide family related activities and not just a place for wayward teens and preteens to hang out.
- The City raised property taxes, but I don't ever see any improvements regarding City services. The sewers have never been cleaned out and there are no improvements in our parks and recreation centers.
- There are too many stray dogs between Schaefer and Outer Drive. I would hate to shoot someone's dog. The dog pound should pick them all up. The City should also trim most of the trees around telephone lines and power lines. Every side street ought to be plowed at least once a week to prevent the large build up of snow and ice in the wintertime.

- I am eighty years old and a widow. I drive a car. I have not been on public transportation in years or to Belle Isle, downtown parks, or any parks. I called the police twice about a car parked in front of my house for three weeks with a ticket on it. I have a tree in front of my house that needs to be cut down. They came and trimmed it after I called City Council and the Mayor's Office, but big black limbs still fall when it's windy. The trees pushing up the sidewalks would be cheaper to cut down, then for the City to be sued if the tree limbs fall on the houses around here.
- Our neighborhood is very dirty with garbage cans in front of homes or in the street. Vacant lots also have piles of garbage. I have begged for more than thirteen years to get the sidewalk in front of my home replaced. The City's tree pushed it up. The tree is not trimmed and it touches my house. It is all very frightening for a handicapped senior citizen. Also, unsanitary conditions in our neighborhood are bad for my health. I have to stay in and keep all windows and doors closed. The 311 phone number is worthless, nothing ever comes from any reports called in to that service. It is a stalling tactic to make us feel something is being done. The people that answer the phones are rude. Most fire hydrants are not working, therefore there is no water to fight a fire.
- I feel more work should be done to restore City parks so children have somewhere to go and play and meet friends. The City should develop a mandate for business owners to keep surrounding areas clean and free of debris. Homeowners should also be fined if they do not keep their property clean. I was born in Detroit, my father retired from the DPW. I love Detroit, no matter what anyone says, there is no other City I would rather live in.
- 1. I cannot find anywhere in the City with smooth asphalt for roller blading, so I have to go to suburban parks. 2. I've seen running water for days and weeks from a ruptured pipe. 3. It is disheartening to see people that were dedicated and stayed in the City, get uprooted, and their homes replaced with homes that they (and others) can't afford.
- There are no parks in my neighborhood. Well, I suspect there may be one but it's hard to tell with all the over growth. I have repeatedly called the police to report disturbances. They only showed up the two times that someone was actually physically assaulted. The absence of recycling in a city this size is an abomination. I take my items for recycling to Ann Arbor. If neighborhoods were properly policed, there would be no worries of garbage pickers scattering garbage and rubbish.
- Reports made to forestry and numerous reports of damaged sidewalks have been ignored. At least 25 people have fallen. One senior citizen fell and broke her teeth. It has been over a year (July 28, 2000), since these conditions were reported, and still no response. Please look into this.
- I sincerely enjoy being a Detroit resident. A Canadian by birth, the accessibility of Windsor is a plus. Belle Isle, an important part of my early years in Detroit, is a real concern. It is a true jewel and should be maintained and cared for. The Parks and Recreation Department definitely needs upgrading with personnel (employees and supervisors) to encourage usage of facilities by children and families.

- My residence is near Wayne State University (WSU) and the Cultural Center. Therefore, police (13th Precinct and WSU public safety officers) protection is very good. Streetlighting on Second Avenue is often out. Traffic signs at Forest and Woodward barely allow pedestrians to get halfway across before the stop sign starts blinking. There's a tree stump needing removal (for one year) on the median near Federal Mogul and the WSU Library storage building on Prentis and Cass Avenue. Please remove. The City put up a Prentis Street sign, which was quickly stolen. The area is livable but plain. Downtown could use a modern center with stores such as Sears and Penneys.
- For three years, I have requested the pruning of a tree, and to date nothing has happened. I live on a street where there is only one light for the whole block and that light is at beginning of the block.
- We need more police patrols of residential areas where drugs, car thieves, and car strippers operate in the area of Santa Rosa, Stoepel, and Monica just west of Livernois between Six Mile and the Lodge Expressway. As for the programs mentioned, I didn't know that the City parks had them.
- Residential and city roads and curbs need to be replaced, including widening for parking double lane access on roads, such as Fenkle and Evergreen. Roads with gaping potholes need to be repaved, not just patched. Salt and the snow plows without guards compound the situation. We need to do something different. Lights need to be timed a lot better to increase traffic flow. Signs are missing and there are many unmarked intersections. The community would be willing to help I'm sure, if assistance was provided. Buses need to be more dependable and the times clearly marked, such as at fifteen minute intervals. Maybe a metro, or a better system, should be considered to link the suburbs to the City. We need more trashcans everywhere. Parks need better grass and upkeep. We don't need more traffic tickets, we need better police training. Belle Isle has a rare animal on it found nowhere else in the world. Belle Isle should be declared a National Preserve. Throwing money at problems won't help. Money is already wasted and I'm sure misappropriated or stolen via incompetent contractors. My answer is competition and community awareness. Detroit has much potential but the problems, I assure you, are very deep and will not be easily solved. Problem solving can and must take the social and cultural needs of the community into consideration.
- It doesn't look like the City employees that work at grass cutting and for the Water Department are well supervised. I see six in a truck but only two doing some work. The same is true for tree trimmers. Also, the employees who work in the offices are much more courteous than they used to be. Supervisors should not come from the ranks because there may be too much friendship with subordinates.
- I have been waiting since February for someone to trim the tree in front of my house. How long do I have to wait?
- Belle Isle needs your attention: 1. Bathroom out of order for several years; 2. Building needs to be torn down; 3. Streets need repairing; 4. Need more recreation facilities, for example, racketball courts and so on.
- We have dead trees in the neighborhood that were killed by lightning from a storm in 1997. When it rains, the street floods and water stands for two or three days.
- The trees on my street haven't been trimmed in 10 to 15 years.

- I frequent my neighborhood recreational center, located at Heilman Field at 19601 Crusade. We have been waiting for a boiler part to heat the pool for months. Winter is upon us and it will be cold outside. It will not be good trying to swim in an ice-cold pool. Please fix the boiler before winter. I and a lot of seniors are counting on swimming throughout the winter months.
- It is a shame that Belle Isle has turned into such a dump. There are too many abandoned buildings, kids disrespecting the property, garbage, etc. I love Detroit. I have lived here my whole life and look forward to the day when the City becomes rejuvenated. It's time for a change.
- The Water Department dug up my lawn near the street last year and they have not been back since. I called the Water Department and their representatives provided five separate times that someone would be out to fix my lawn, but I am still waiting. Most City departments will not answer their phones, and if they do they put you on hold for over one-half hour, or most of the time they never get back to you. Palmer Park is cluttered with debris near bushes and trees, especially near the sidewalk.
- The trees need to be trimmed on a regular basis. The low branches provide a place for people to hide in the shadows. The streets need to be cleaned on a regular basis. I've been in this home for two years and I've seen the street cleaned twice. Once a year is not enough. We need concerned leaders at City Hall in charge of City services.
- Streetlights on Jefferson remain knocked down or out for six months or more. There is garbage and litter in all vacant lots along East Jefferson and Alter Road. Downtown area parks remain unkempt with weeds instead of flowers. Old buildings on Belle Isle should be repaired or torn down. Thank you for sending me this survey.
- I would like to feel safer in my neighborhood. I wonder why everyone knows the drug dealers and houses around us but the police do not. The parks are dirty and the playgrounds are broken and dangerous. We would like a stop sign at the corner of East Lantz and Bloom. Cars just speed by here everyday. More police patrols would be nice.
- I would like to see more streetlights in the neighborhood, and more streetlights on all our major freeways. I also would like to see a quicker police response to calls concerning burglary. I have a monitored system and it took at least an hour to respond when my alarm was tripped. I live alone and work nights, so this concern is very important to me. But overall, I do believe we have a very good Police Department. I do enjoy living in Detroit. I am willing to get more involved in my neighborhood and recreation centers and City parks to help where I can.
- When you ask about safe neighborhoods, it depends on the streets. My street is safe, but streets like Morang, Oldtown, and streets across Morang are burglarized, noisy, and unkempt. There are many big dead elm trees on Lanark, and one tree in front of Sasser Park has big chunks of bark falling from it. Also, the sidewalk near that tree is a terrible safety hazard. It is all broken and raised from the tree roots. Also, in the winter the City never clears the snow in front of the Sasser Park. The trees on the street have not been pruned or sprayed in 15 or more years.

- I have been trying to get my mother's alley cleaned for at least five years. I have also tried to get the City to trim and cut down trees, to fix the sidewalk, to tear down the empty house on Merrick Street for years, to get a streetlight on Roosevelt, and to get the police to do something about the streetwalkers who bring their johns on my street and have sex across the street from the church on Roosevelt.
- Trees need trimming in the South Schaefer area.
- Since I was nine years old, I've lived in this City. Until Coleman Young came into office it consisted of neighborhoods filled with businesses within walking distance of my home. They no longer exist. Our parks and recreation centers were there for our children. Now, there are no PAL leagues, recreation centers, or playgrounds for them. No wonder our youth are troubled, everything now seems geared for the enjoyment of the adults.
- We the citizens of Detroit deserve to have clean streets, parks, and recreational facilities. I would be one of the first to volunteer to help clean our parks, but I have to ask, "What are my taxes being used for?" In past elections, I have voted for increases in millages for various City departments, but I honestly don't see a change. Where is the accountability? This is my City and I want to be proud of the City I live in. I pray that the elected officials of the City of Detroit will do what's right for the City and for the constituents who elected them. Thank you.
- I'm willing to volunteer to maintain our City parks and vacant lots but I know for a fact that the City pays workers to do these jobs. The more volunteers you have the less the paid workers have to do; and these people are paid well to do their jobs. We, or someone, needs to make sure they do their jobs. My family and I are afraid to go to Belle Isle because of the behavior of the youth or those in their early 20's that go there. They block the streets and moon passersby. They don't allow the older adults to enjoy the Isle anymore. Belle Isle needs to be patrolled better and more strictly. All age groups should be allowed to enjoy Belle Isle again.
- Detroit needs citizens with better work ethics, citizens with more pride in the City and themselves, and citizens who are willing to pay out of their pockets for better service to their neighborhoods and better maintenance of Belle Isle. Yes, I support an entrance fee to help keep Belle Isle clean. Senior citizens need to stop begging and contribute to City services like you do to casinos.
- There is very poor bus service, poor trash pickup services, good activity on Belle Isle, and poor police community relations.
- I think that we need better streetlights, police protection, better and safer parks, more programs for kids, more gyms, cleaner water to fish in, a good warm place for people in the parks, and a Burger King restaurant on Seven Mile and Woodward. Thank you, hope I was somewhat helpful.
- Common council and mayoral candidates are out shaking hands at election time. Afterward, the winners climb into their ivory towers, remaining there until the next election. Sell their cars and require them to ride buses. Take them to Belle Isle to use the facilities, if they can stand the odor. Have them walk the streets at night to see how inefficient the lighting is. If they want to find out what problems a department is having, let them talk to the workers rather than the supervisors who only paint them a rosy picture.

- Clean up Belle Isle, tear down old buildings and houses, and stop bums from hanging around downtown. Also, police should respond when you call 911. Their response time is awful.
- Where I've checked neither good or bad on the survey form, there needs to be improvement. I haven't been to Belle Isle in years but it was nice when I was going there. There is a very bad drug problem in this area. Drug dealers both young and old are selling drugs during daylight hours right on the streets, even running up to your car trying to sell drugs. We don't like these things going on in our community. Our laws need to be enforced more in dealing with drugs and drug dealers. Get the man at the top.
- We have been trying to get a stop sign on westbound Robinwood at Orleans for the last five years and can't seem to get it installed. The speed going south on Orleans is very high after 3:00 p.m. We the members of the block club have been trying to get help here and can't. We also would like our trees sprayed, because of bird droppings. We enjoy the trees but the birds nest there every evening after 7:00 p.m. The noise is unbearable and flies are everywhere. We have called for trees to be sprayed but the Recreation Department won't spray them. Thank you.
- The following lists some of the City's problems: 1. Conditions of streets are deplorable. 2. The infrastructure is obsolete. 3. There are no shopping districts. 4. There is a lack of representation. 5. Residents are over taxed. 6. The City needs more streetlights. 7. There are too many abandoned homes. 8. Too many fire hydrants don't work. 9. Much of the fire equipment is old. 10. The parks are full of dope. 11. Buses don't run on time and are dirty. 12. There are no covered bus shelters. 13. Although the E.M.S. is well trained, there are too few. 14. The Fire Department is well trained, but there are too few. 15. The Police Department is wasted. 16. City information is too hard to access.
- Some things to improve the quality of life for Detroit residents would be: 1. Insist that owners of vacant buildings keep their properties clean of weeds, posters, trash, etc., especially the buildings on main streets such as west Seven Mile. The owners of these vacant properties should be ticketed, if the property is not kept up. 2. Gas station owners should be ticketed, if their property is not clean. 3. Ticket homeowners for trash and weeds around their property. 4. Why doesn't the DPW issue tickets for trash cans left on the street well after trash pickup? 5. Trees in residential neighborhoods need trimming 6. Sidewalks and curbs need repairing in the neighborhoods. 7. Enforce the ordinance for illegal posters on traffic signs and light posts. 8. Clean our neighborhood playgrounds so that the neighborhood children can play basketball and other games there, instead of in the streets. 9. Make department heads accountable for their jobs or fine them. Thank you.
- Anytime you have a park, which five hundred to a thousand people attend daily, and there's no toilet, the park should be shut down. Why isn't there a toilet at Riverside Park? Also calling the police is a joke, since they don't have a car to send to the area.
- I love the City of Detroit. I was born and raised here and raised my three children here. It is sad to see how some areas of the City have gone down. Even the buildings on Belle Isle that should be torn down are still there as an eyesore. Also, the Rouge Park restrooms should be torn down. They are not useable and are dangerous for people and children and are places drug pushers could use. There is a lot to do to make this City a place of pride again.

- Everything was taken out of our small neighborhood so our kids have nothing to do but hang on the street. There is a block sitting there that could be fixed for the kids but the City does nothing with it. The weeds are so tall. Everything is being put on the east side of the City but what about the southwest side? The empowerment zone stopped less than a half of mile from us. We are like a forgotten community.
- I make the following comments about the City and its citizens. There are no construction people in the neighborhood on Sundays. People leave garbage cans out all days. People rake leaves up and place them near streets for days and weeks, or until the wind blows them all over the street. Street signs are not placed at all street corners so you can tell which street you are on or near. Some streets' bulk garbage is collected infrequently. There should be a regular trimming of trees where necessary.
- In Sherwood Forest we are faced with a great increase of what appears to be homeless people and with this an increase in breakins. I feel it necessary to arm my home, because there is not enough patrolling by the police in our neighborhood. The City must change it's laws to meet its needs. Store and other business owners must be responsible for their property to keep it free of trash and weeds. We should inquire how other communities enforce the laws about property maintenance. For example, Birmingham, Bloomfield, and even Ferndale work hard at upgrading their look. We need to treat Belle Isle like a Metro Park and pay a fee for entering to cover the cost of patrols.
- I hope this survey improves our City of Detroit . The streets need to be swept a least once each week. Trees need to be trimmed. Give residents tickets if they don't cut their lawns. When bulk trash is picked up please remove all of the debris.
- The Police Department needs more officers who are better educated and trained and receive better pay. We also need better response time and more officers to patrol neighborhoods for loud music and to strengthen the neighborhood watch programs. The Police and Fire Departments also need better equipment and information systems. City of Detroit residents should pay a fee for Belle Isle, and nonresidents should pay one dollar more to use Belle Isle to keep youths off the Isle after hours.
- My personal experience with the park maintenance and forestry department as apart of our community group's adopt a park program provides a perfect example of the problems with City services. I have personally observed workers refuse direction of a supervisor, a lack of common sense when ordering supplies for picnic tables by forgetting to order wood and bolts for assembly, and workers sent to remove old equipment who removed and destroyed brand new equipment instead.
- I work ten minutes from home, and I have Brinks Security. When my alarm was tripped I had to give Brinks permission to call the 4th precinct. The police were there and gone before I got home, and the officer-in-charge and Mayor Archer got a compliment from me. There is a very bad tree in front of 8756 Homer with a large loose branch toward the top that badly needs a trim. I called the forestry unit of the City but they never showed. Hopefully, someone will soon.

- Concerning the question about whether I feel safe in my neighborhood day or night – I feel safe because I'm very well known in my neighborhood. I'm ready to leave Detroit so my opinion on some things are different. I wish we had a place for the children to play indoors within walking distance. There is no park or recreation center in this area, in walking distance anyway. I want to see a place where people can take plastic bottles, glass, and cans for recycling. However, I can't fight this battle alone, and I have no help from the people who need it the most. So, I got to go, bye.
- Advertise or make known through the neighborhoods, the various services, programs, and activities that are available at fire stations and recreation centers. We can't take advantage of an outreach program if we don't know it's there for us. Volunteering to maintain a vacant lot is not a problem but these lots should be fenced in and police patrols of the neighborhood should be more frequent. Police should be more visible. The survey questions were answered with respect to the neighborhood I just moved from, not the one I live in now, although I haven't seen any police around here. There are no parks, fire stations, outreach programs, etc. nearby, in either area in 3 or 4, that offer services.
- Please work on the removal of bulk items.
- Detroit is a great place to live but something must be done to improve our quality of life. The parks, recreation centers, cultural events, shopping, police protection, abandoned housing, etc. need to be addressed by the City.
- There needs to be more neighborhood playgrounds for the children, especially near apartment buildings. Street cleaning needs to be beefed up. Tree trimming could use a push. Prevention of vandalism to houses needs more attention.
- I have lived here for three years and I have not seen any street trees trimmed or pruned. Also, the playground signs are faded, we need new ones.
- Sidewalks in front of vacant downtown buildings are not cleaned in the winter. The pool at the Coleman A. Young Recreation Center has not worked for several months and there are only limited exercise programs. The Center does not open early (5:00 - 5:30 a.m.) for workers who have to be at work earlier than 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
- In comparison to areas of the City where housing and environmental elements suggest people of means live, the lower eastside of Detroit (i.e., southeast) is grossly neglected by the City's service workers. The property taxes paid by homeowners in our area are counted in the City's financial records the same as everyone else's. Then, why are eastsiders so neglected? There is little or no tree trimming, and garbage dropped when dumped into the truck is left for the occupants of the property to cleanup. It's tough living in Detroit, sometimes.
- Clark Park is our best neighborhood park and recreation center because of the Clark Park Coalition. The City's planning and real estate units are ineffective. The Buildings and Safety Engineering Department is ineffective. It provides no code enforcement, no "Design" guidelines for commercial or residential rehab or new construction, awnings and signage, or fencing installations, and no true land use planning. There is no retail shopping in neighborhoods or downtown. City departments are ineffective in attracting and working with private developers to bring new retail and housing developments to the neighborhoods let alone the downtown area, aside from a few high-profile projects that are driven by Illitch, Ford, Karmanos, or GM. Thank goodness for the nonprofit groups working in their respective neighborhoods on redevelopment.